

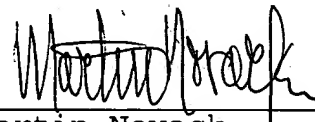
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27. A method according to claim 19, wherein the method is carried out in two steps, step 1 comprising coating the particles with a ceramic binder, and curing/drying the binder, and step 2 comprising coating the precoated particles with a ceramic binder, and curing/drying the binder.

REMARKS

Claims 3-13, 15-16, and 19-24 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies. New dependent claim 25 is a redrafted version of claim 13, dependent only from claim 12. New dependent claim 26 is a redrafted version of claim 14, depending back to claim 12. New dependent claim 27 is a version of claim 21 (that depends back to claim 19), from which claim 22 depends.

Respectfully submitted,



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